



City of Atlanta

WHAT YOU CAN TO DO HELP THE EARTH

- **Move your thermostat down 2 degrees in winter and up 2 degrees in summer**
Almost half of the energy we use in our homes goes to heating and cooling. You could save about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year with this simple adjustment.
- **Wrap your water heater in an insulation blanket**
You'll save 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide a year with this simple action. You can save another 550 pounds per year by setting the thermostat no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Consider ENERGYSTAR appliances**
When replacing old appliances in a house or office setting, consider buying products with the ENERGYSTAR label. ENERGY STAR qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10- 50% less energy and water than standard models. If just one in 10 homes used ENERGY STAR qualified appliances, the change would be like planting 1.7 million new acres of trees.

Here are some examples of what replacing common household or office appliances can do:

- **Refrigerators:** Replacing a 10-year old refrigerator with a new ENERGYSTAR qualified model would save enough energy to light the average household for over 3 months and over 300 pounds of pollution each year.
- **Clothes Washer:** Replacing a 10-year old clothes washer with an ENERGYSTAR qualified washer can save up to \$120 per year on your utility bills, as these clothes washers clean clothes using 50% less energy than standard washers.
- **Home electronics:** If just half of all home electronic products sold in the U.S. were ENERGYSTAR certified, it would be equivalent to taking 1 Million cars off the road.
- **Computer monitors:** There are approximately 55 million office computers in the U.S. The EPA estimates that over 11 billion kWh could be saved through monitor power management. This would amount to \$935 million per year saved at 8.5 cents/kWh, enough energy to power over one million households for a year, and CO2 reductions equivalent to preventing the emissions from 1.5 million cars or planting 2.5 million acres of trees.
- **Turn it off!**
Consumer electronics play an increasingly larger role in your home's energy consumption, accounting for 15 percent of household electricity use. Many consumer electronics products use energy even when switched off. By using these following tips, you can help reduce the US annual energy costs by more than \$3 billion and carbon emissions by 18 million tons.
 - Unplug any battery chargers or power adapters when not in use (like your cell phone charger!).
 - Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point when you are done using equipment.
 - Even when turned off, electronic and IT equipment often use a small amount of electricity. For home office equipment, this stand-by or "phantom" power load can range from a few watts to as much as 20 or even 40 watts for each piece of equipment. Using a power strip for your computer and all peripheral equipment allows you to completely disconnect the power supply from the power source, eliminating standby power consumption.



Celebrates the Earth